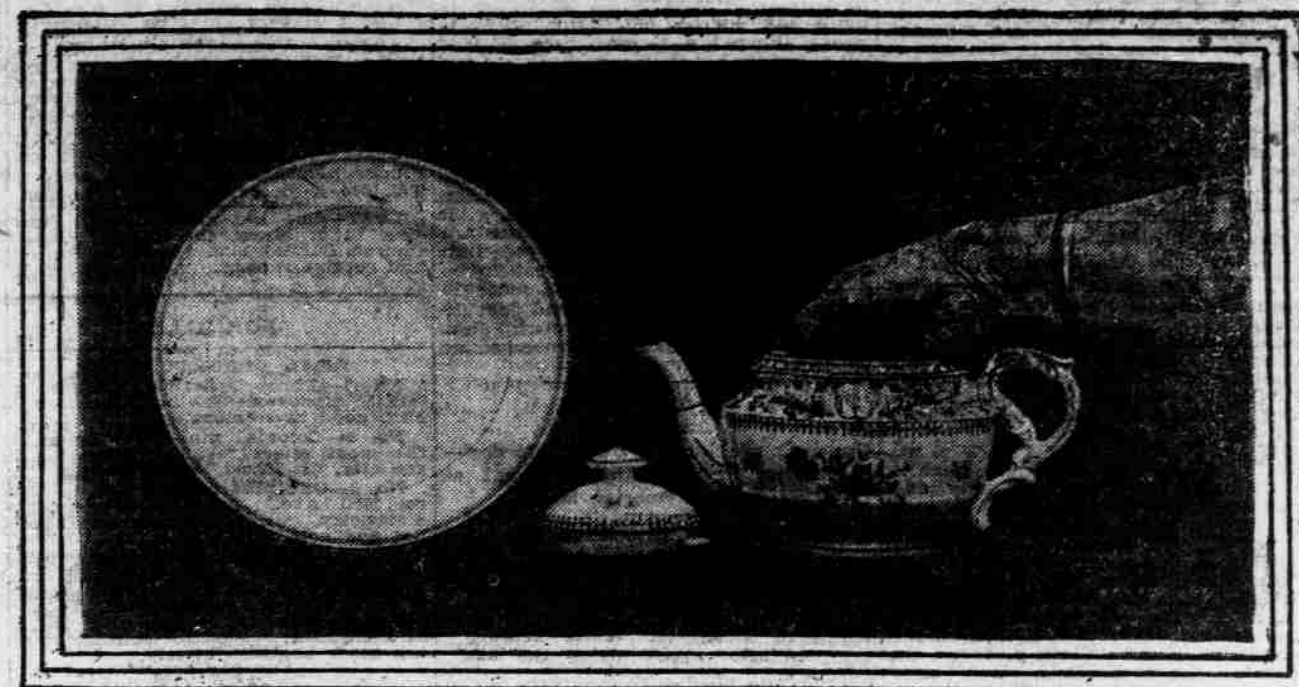


Uncle Sam Teaches Selection of Furnishings



GLASS PITCHER—PLAIN, GOOD SHAPE, EASY TO CLEAN.
OLD BLUE AND WHITE (WILLOW WARE) PITCHER—GOOD SHAPE AND DESIGN, EASY TO CLEAN.

HOME SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A FACTORY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF FAMILY COMFORT—LABOR SAVERS—WALL PAPER—FLOOR COVERINGS—OTHER HOUSEHOLD SUGGESTIONS.



PLATE—INEXPENSIVE, WITH GOOD TYPE OF DECORATION IN SIMPLE BAND OF COLOR SET OFF BY GILT LINES.
TEAPOT—INCONVENIENT TO CLEAN BECAUSE OF SMALL OPENING AT TOP AND OF IRREGULARITIES ON HANDLE WHICH COLLECT DIRT.

Special Correspondence.
WASHINGTON, D. C., September 3, 1914.
HENRY Uncle Sam started out to teach the women of the land scientific housekeeping his plans included a thorough treatment of every phase of every department in Mrs. Housewife's varied domain. Beginning with the proper arrangement and equipment of the kitchen his experts have not only covered the entire subject of food for the family and its methods of preparation, but also they have taken the house, planned its situation from standpoints of health and comfort, designed its construction with economy and convenience as their rule.

They have likewise investigated and experimented with it, room by room, until now they offer the most explicit advice for the selection of the furnishings by which the interior fittings of a home, any home, are bound to be a source of satisfaction and pleasure to the family as long as they last; for utility and efficiency are the paramount considerations that govern their choice.

Because no two homes are identical concerning the income, the size of the house and the size and character of the family, no definite or set rules are laid down, but the general instructions cannot fail to be helpful to all interested enough to follow them.

The most effective plan suggested is that the housewife consider her home as a factory for the production of family comfort. For in their eating, sleeping, resting and social diversions many diversified activities are called into play. And for these equipment of tools must be provided which should be chosen with a view to making it possible for the housewife to do her various tasks with the least labor and the greatest efficiency.

For the setting of a real home—where the cultural, moral and congenial effects on the inmates must be considered—beauty must have its place in planning equipment; and the more the fittings include beauty, necessity and convenience, the more perfectly will they serve the purpose for which they were planned. In many cases, such as in the selection of linens, furniture and upholstery materials, beauty and utility and efficiency combined in the most-looking articles.

One important factor to be considered



DOING KITCHEN WORK AT TABLE TOO LOW.

In furnishing a house is the amount of labor involved in caring for it. Elaborate carvings on furniture, fancy metal fixtures, fancy-shaped handles on dishes, rough surfaces (as on cheap earthenware, worn, rough and unpainted wood; excessive quantities of ornaments and bric-a-brac, highly polished metals and sharp angles in moldings), all mean difficult cleaning. If full finish is provided in floors, metal works, such as doorknobs and chandeliers, etc., the care of them is greatly simplified.

So, also, the rounded moldings where wall and floor meet is a great saver of hours. Many women who plan their houses now insist upon sill-less doors and

closets, and cupboards provided with either a window or artificial means of lighting and glass doors. Open plumbing is not only more sanitary but much easier to keep clean and it is urged that wherever possible all sinks, washtubs, bathtubs and basins should be so placed as to make their cleaning easy. They should be provided with smooth pipes for the same reason.

Whatever the heating system may be, plain surfaces should be the rule, whether in stoves or radiators, for their purpose is solely to give out heat, and their beauty is best attained in the simplest design. The same advice is urged in the choice of lighting fixtures, dull finish and plain, uncarved arrangements being far more attractive and serviceable than the fancy fretwork, filigree and carvings.

When choosing wall paper it is well



A KITCHEN TABLE OF SUITABLE HEIGHT.

to remember that any design of striking color or large figure which intrudes itself upon the consciousness of the occupant of the room is decidedly bad. For in time its effect will be felt upon the nerves. Soft neutral tones and unobtrusive patterns are the ones that will give the best satisfaction, and where it is possible, the painted or calcimined walls are even better from the standpoint of sanitation.

The master of color is, of course, always a question of individual taste; but certain shades give the best results in certain rooms. For instance, cream, yellow and yellow brown shades on the walls of a north room are most pleasing, having the effect of softening the chill of the northern light. But soft greens and grays temper the light in the sunny rooms. No large designs are appropriate for small rooms. After

the color of the walls has been decided the tones of the balance of the furnishings should be chosen to blend, and the coloring of the adjoining rooms arranged to harmonize.

For the floor coverings movable rugs are considered best, as they are much easier to keep free of dust than the tacked down matting and large carpets that cover the entire floor space. They should be firmly woven so as to lie flat, and of soft colors and inconspicuous patterns, "toning-in" with the color of the walls and darker, so as to bring the room and its furnishings into proper relations.

As they are of infinite variety of materials and of all prices, their utility

and suitability to the room for which they are intended should be considered. Particularly good are the Brussels, the old three-ply Ingrains and for bedrooms the old style rag rugs, of which there are so many modern imitations, are most attractive.

Shade rollers insure the privacy of the room, but they do not soften the light or the line of the draperies. A plan suggested is to hang straight curtains of darker, thicker material inside the window of lace or muslin. In the winter these can be supplanted by those of heavier texture.

Double windows are recommended for winter as a decided aid to the comfort of the house.

Bronze screening that does not rust gives the most satisfaction, but it is better to use mosquito netting over all of the windows and doors than to have a few or even all of the openings imperfectly wire-screened.

In the built-in closets it is urged to have the drawers shallow, rather than deep and broad, but because of the saving of labor in pulling them out, the deep drawers are used with rollers, and because in shallow drawers there is no piling up of things. With shelves the narrow ones give better results than the deep broad ones. These should not be more than a foot wide.

Bed coverings are to be selected for the greatest amount of warmth and the least weight possible, so wool ranks ahead of cotton and wool and cotton mixed in blankets and comforters give the best service. All bed coverings should be long enough to tuck in all around the mattress, a quality not often found in the ready-made sheets.

In regard to furniture good quality depends on well chosen materials, good design and good workmanship, but whatever the wood may be, or the material of the covering, which may range from cotton and velours up through the handomest leathers and tapestries, the furniture should be of the best strength rather than the elaborate ornamentation of the showy styles.

The arrangement of furniture in a room is as important as the selection of the most appropriate kind for the house. Overcrowded rooms are anything but restful or artistic, and it is suggested by the government on the selection of home equipment that the value of empty spaces as an asset of comfort and mobility be borne in mind. In the arrangement of all tables,

sinks, washtubs and ironing stands it should be remembered that the height of these worktables has a great deal to do with the ease of working. They should be from thirty-two to thirty-five inches from the ground and the bottom of sinks should usually be thirty or thirty-one inches from the floor, in order that bending from the waist may be avoided. This is a matter to be decided to suit the height of the worker. Some tables may be obtained with adjustable tops which permit the working height to be changed, rolling boards should be a little lower than other work tables. Another point of importance in minimizing labor is the placing of kitchen and laundry equipment so as to avoid unnecessary steps and motion.

Fully as much care is required for the best results in the choice of kitchen and table ware. Fragile china of intricate designs, full of knobs and curves, should be reserved for infrequent use if bought at all, for the plain shapes and small inconspicuous decorations bought from open stock give the best service with the least amount of work and trouble in their care. All teapots, pitchers, etc., should have openings large enough to permit the handle to be inserted in washing them.

In cooking utensils no one class may be recommended to the exclusion of all others, but different kinds should be gotten for different uses. Earthenware for baking and casseroles, in which the food may be both cooked and served, are labor savers. The good enameled ware, the heavy iron skillets, the lighter cast-iron pans, the aluminum utensils and the tinware all have their special uses, and the economy lies in getting the best grade of each that one can afford.

The shape of a kettle has much to do with the rapidity with which its contents heat, so in buying double-boilers, teakettles, etc., the ones which are broad at the base are best for quick boiling results.

Planning and furnishing a house systematically and on the most approved, accurate and scientific plan, does not involve lack of originality or beauty, for the best equipped house is one which in all of its details of furnishing and arrangement is most completely suited to the needs of the family, and the standard of needs of each family is an individual problem, determined by the income, character and location of the home, and by the varied interests and occupations of the occupants.

Birds Which Can't Fly, But Can Swim, One of Nature's Anomalies

Birds Which Do Not Fly and Others Which Swim; Mammals That Lay Eggs; the Bat a True Aviator.

THE anomalies in nature constitute one of its most striking assemblages of forms. These are not nature's freak forms, by any means; but her normal ones which may be called anomalous because they are departures from the usual order of accepted types.

These anomalies range over every division of animal life; some of them are matters of common knowledge, others are hidden from all but the most persistent observer of animal forms. How queer it is, for instance, that many birds should exist which do not know how to fly, when the usual and favorite simile for any flight is that it is "just like a bird's."

It is also queer that other animals, classified far differently from the birds, should be equipped with very efficient wings. Yet, whoever thinks of comparing an aviator to a bat or a flying squirrel?

But the fact remains that a host of bird species exist which are very inefficient flyers and accomplish their migrations through feeble efforts; while the bat possesses remarkable flying attainments which almost rival those of the hummingbird, reputed to be the most powerful flyer in existence. It would appear that the animal accomplishments were strangely mixed at the time of their bestowal, for besides flying animals, there are flying fishes, and birds that can swim. What a departure it is for a mammal to lay eggs! But it is not unknown to the animal world. There are a couple of Australian oddities that lay eggs with the equanimity of a barnyard hen. In contrast are viviparous fishes and snakes—that is, fishes and snakes which produce their young alive—and this seems odd, for it is generally understood that fishes and snakes are egg-laying species.

There are true fishes which breathe with lungs, which almost entirely supplant their gills, and there are fishes which come out of the water and bask in the sun. Indeed, such singular anomalous characteristics are manifold and might be traced indefinitely.

The flightless birds compose a larger group than seems possible when one first stives thought of them. Every one knows that many of the common fowls have fully developed forelimbs, but that they cannot use them for flight; and the ostrich, too, the largest bird in the world today, is also unable to fly.

This inability is due to the degen-

erated form of their wings, for it is probable that the ancestors of this bird had their wings fully developed and could fly well. Nowadays the ostrich can only employ its wings as locomotory auxiliaries when running in high winds; then, if it desires to turn rapidly to escape its pursuers, it can flap its wings and accomplish its purpose with little effort.

Wouldn't it be a great sight to see an ostrich in flight, especially the African ostrich, which is the largest species in existence, and attains a weight of 300 pounds? It has been said that they can make a speed of twenty-six miles an hour while running, outstripping an ordinary horse.

One of the best known of the flight-

largest of the forms, and it often attains a height of three and a half feet. They sometimes weigh as much as eighty pounds.

An interesting and extraordinary instance of a flightless bird is a swimmer as well is the steamer duck, which occurs off the Straits of Magellan and around the Falkland Islands. When these ducks are young they possess powers of flight, but when they become adults they lose their flying abilities and are completely dependent on their swimming.

Within comparatively recent times

actually fly; they simply perform a sailing feat.

One can see the difference in such machines as the parachute and the aeroplane, the former, with its sailing surface spread, can do nothing but drift with the wind, while the latter, with its wings, can do anything it pleases. The aeroplane flies here and there, and may even change its direction. The balloons and the kites may be compared to the parachute, for their "wings" are simply skin tissues which connect their fore and hind limbs when spread and sustain their bodies in flying leaps.

The bats are true aviators, and though their membranous wings are not to be compared structurally with those of a bird, yet they make possible the animal's graceful curves in the air.

Not so well known among the volant creatures are the flying frog and the flying lizard. The flying frog of Borneo was discovered by Alfred Russel Wallace, the great naturalist, and he says about it:

"One of the most curious and interesting creatures which I met in Borneo was a large, fringed, bat-like animal brought to me by a Chinese workman. He assured me that he had seen it come down in a slanting direction from a high tree as if it flew. On examining it I found the toes very long and fleshy, webbed to their extremity, so that, when expanded, they offered a surface much larger than the body. The fore-legs were also bordered by a membrane and the body was capable of considerable inflation. The back and limbs were of a very shining green, the under surface and the toes yellow, while the webs were black rayed with yellow."

"The body was about four inches long, while the webs of each hind foot, when fully expanded, covered a surface of four inches square, giving a surface of about sixteen square inches for all four feet. It is difficult to imagine that this immense membrane of the toes can be for the purpose of swimming only, and the account of the Chinaman that it flew down from the tree seems more credible."

At least one lizard enjoys, to a certain degree, the power of sailing through the air. This lizard is called the flying dragon and is a small-sized form inhabiting the Indo-Malayan region. It possesses elongated ribs which support semi-transparent membranes of rare effectiveness. By their use, these close up like a fan when not in use and fall to the sides of the animal. When spread, they form a parachute of rare effectiveness. By their use, the lizard can leap from the limb of a tree and sail to another one at a great distance. Sometimes these wings of the flying dragon are beautifully marked, resembling the wing markings of certain butterflies.

The mammals that lay eggs are unique in nature and are now being exterminated very rapidly. The duck-bill and the porcupine ant-eater, called the flying squirrel, are the only two forms of this class extant. The duck-bill is an Australian form which lives on the banks of rivers and feeds upon the insects, worms and mollusks

which it finds there. Soft, smooth and dense, its coat resembles that of an otter, while its tail is flattened and short like a beaver's. It has small eyes and its most striking feature is a bill, which is broad and flat like a duck's.

For a long time it was thought that its young were brought forth at an early stage of their development and cared for by the mother in a nest on the bank of a river. Colonists started the stories about its laying eggs and zoologists investigated. For a long time they denied the reports; then later, when the flying dragon was seen with a truly oviparous animal and laid from two to four eggs in a rude nest in a burrow of a river bank.

These eggs are about a half-inch across and three-quarters of an inch long, the shells being white, tough and flexible, something after the order of



THE ROCK HOPPER.

a sea turtle's egg. Transportation of these animals to zoological gardens has always been a problem and only rarely successful. Some of the early accounts of the duck-bill are very amusing; for at first the specimens brought to Europe were declared to be "manufactured monsters" and "fakes."

The only other mammal in the world that lays eggs is the porcupine ant-eater of Australia. It is a nocturnal animal, it behaves somewhat like an armadillo; it burrows with marvelous celerity. If the attack be too sudden for this it rolls itself into a ball and depends on its spiny coat for defense. It produces one egg at a time, which is relatively small, not larger than a sparrow's egg, and has a white leathery shell like that of a reptile.

animal world, but perhaps no more remarkable species can be cited than the great toad of Surinam, a tropical South American. The skin of the entire back of the female toad becomes conspicuously thickened as the laying season comes on, and as soon as she has her eggs, the male picks them up and deposits them on the soft skin of her back. Here they develop so far that when they emerge from the "cells" they are perfect miniatures of the mother.

On the muddy flats of the Malay region are the places where the curious fish known as the mud-hopper is met with in abundance. This is a remarkable fish, which comes ashore for recreation! Not only does it come out of the water onto the mud flats, but when the yare there they do about on terra firma as though this was their true element.

Their expeditions ashore are usually made at low tide, and, of which, the creatures, are to be observed in de-

tached groups, enjoying a sunbath on the slippery mud. They climb up little distances on the exposed and sated roots of the mangrove trees and when up some little distance, they settle themselves comfortably and appear to be spectators of the antics of their companions in the smooth coals below.

Totally unlike the mud-hopper, the mud-bug cannot remain continually underwater, as it incurs the risk of being drowned! Moreover, the fish seems to be a creature of the sun and the action of the air to keep it in a healthy condition.

The anomalies of the insect world are legion; but the queerest of all insects—there are about 300,000—in the common black skating bug. This is seen in groups skating about on the surface of the water in quiet places in ponds and streams. They have their eyes horizontally divided into halves the upper half being used to look into the air, and the lower to look down into the water.

Woman Handles \$350,000 a Year.

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 5, 1914.

Correspondence of The Star.

TIME was when a woman was thought incapable of figuring accurately, as time was when it was thought that a woman could not keep a secret. But time itself has proved the imputation in both cases to be fallacious, and the government of the United States has been one of the strongest promoters of the knowledge that women can do much of which men only were formerly considered capable.

That guide and guardian of government efficiency, the civil service commission, has itself been among the foremost advocates of women's employment to fill responsible positions; and in proof of what it recommends, it employs women in its own office in places of trust and confidence which have ordinarily belonged to the province of men.

Miss Elizabeth Downing, disbursing clerk of the civil service commission, is one of the women employees who are employed by the civil service commission over an annual expenditure of more than \$350,000, which amount covers the salaries of the 242 employees of the bureau, with other expenses incidental to the conduct of the work.

"We have a 'time pay roll,'" said Miss Downing, in talking of her work. "There are the office salaries and those of the field examiners, of which there are five, and the salaries of the special examiners, who are scientists and experts in their respective fields. There are also traveling and field expenses to be covered."

standard payment of \$10 a day for their services, and are in many cases eminent professional university and authorities in their professions in every line—architecture, engineering, etc. They are chosen from fully qualified judges of the merits of experts seeking positions under the government. Prof. Wilcox of Cornell University has been rated papers of a chief statistician for the bureau of the census.

"This rate of \$10 a day is sometimes wholly disproportionate to the services rendered, for some of the men of learning and science who act as special technical examiners for the federal service command ten and twenty times that fee in their private capacity. These experts have, however, uniformly exhibited a willingness to serve the government."

"The expenses connected with the field work of the commission in its twelve districts range over the wide area of the whole United States, and include everything from traveling expenses and hotel bills to janitors' fees. When there is a federal building in a place, such as a custom house, a room in that building is used for the examination, but when no such place is available a room is rented, and sometimes suitable furniture must be installed for the period of examination of would-be employees of the government."

"By this you see that our expenses accounts are full of small and varied items, which must be carefully gone over before being allowed. They also entail a great amount of correspondence, as one may not disburse government funds without vouchers for every item and a knowledge that all is correct."

An estimate has been submitted to Congress for \$20,000 for traveling expenses for the fiscal year 1917. The appropriation for the current year is \$18,000. Last year the appropriation was \$12,000, but Congress granted a deficiency appropriation of \$6,000, making the total \$18,000.